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Sent: Monday, February 14, 2022 10:04 PM
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Subject: Strategic Update - 2022 02 14

STRATEGIC UPDATES FOR DEPUTY SOLICITOR GENERAL

The information in this report is current to 2022-02-14 at 2000 hours.

Opposition to Public Health Measures

York Region Public Health reported today via Ministry of Health (MOH) that on February 11, 2022, about 15-18 protestors attended the York Region Administrative Building at 17150 Yonge Street. The protestors demanded to hand deliver a yellow envelope to the York Medical Officer of Health and refused to leave the envelope in the drop box as requested, instead demanding a staff member from the MOH office receive the envelope.

A staff member from the MOH office received the package and was advised by their legal team not to open the envelope. The protestors also demanded a written receipt and refused to leave until they received the receipt. Some of the protestors entered the vestibule without masks and one spoke aggressively with staff. The protestors left the property around 4 p.m., shortly after they received the receipt.

Security staff and York Regional Police (YRP) were present at the time. The YRP tactical unit removed the envelope from the office this morning (February 14, 2022) and informed that the envelope contained documents relating to vaccine mandates.

ASSESSMENT

Currently, there is no specific, identified threat and monitoring remains attuned to where ideologically motivated extremism may manifest among participants in or supporters of opposition activities.

Freedom Convoy 2022

On February 14, 2022 (today), the federal government invoked the Emergencies Act to provide additional powers to handle ongoing blockades and protests against pandemic restrictions. PM Trudeau said the measures will be geographically targeted and time limited.

The federal government has indicated that the Act will be used to designate and secure border crossings and airports and to ensure that essential services – such as towing services – are rendered. The Act also permits the federal government to direct financial institutions to render essential services to address the situation, and to prohibit the use of property to fund or support illegal blockades. Notably, Financial Transactions and Reports Analysis Centre of Canada's (FINTRAC) authorities are reportedly being expanded to include crowdfunding platforms as reporting entities under the federal *Proceeds of Crime (Money Laundering) and Terrorist Financing Act*.

A cabinet declaration of emergency is in effect immediately and must be presented to Parliament within seven days. If either the Commons or the Senate votes against the motion, the emergency declaration would be revoked.

Coutts, Alberta Blockade

Police Reporting

An investigation by the Alberta RCMP of a sub-group participating in the Coutts, Alberta protest resulted in the arrest of 11 individuals. In the early hours of February 14, 2022 (today), police executed search warrants on three trailers participating in the blockade. 13 long guns, handguns, body armour and a large quantity of ammunition were seized. Police were made aware that the group had access to a cache of firearms and they had indicated a willingness to use force against the police if attempts were made to disrupt the blockade.

In a separate incident, a semi-truck and farm tractor attempted to ram a police vehicle at the Coutts Blockade on February 13, 2022. The Alberta RCMP have seized the two vehicles involved and are actively working to locate suspects.

Open Source Reporting

Social media messaging indicates that gear seized by police at Coutts includes a plate carrier with Diagonon patches. Diagonon, which recognizes a fictional country that runs diagonally across North America from Alaska to Florida, is an accelerationist movement with members and chapters across Canada.

Ottawa Demonstrations

Police Reporting

The Ottawa Police Service (OPS) reports a minimal number of protestors currently in attendance at Parliament Hill.

OPP and OPS have been in contact with various protest leaders to discuss the possibility of moving their trucks out of residential areas to a designated area at Parliament Hill. There is reportedly division between the groups on their desire to leave their areas. 9-12 trucks repositioned themselves off of Albert Street. Reports indicate six trucks were willing to leave the Sussex/Rideau staging area but are boxed in by other vehicles there.

A vehicle being used as a fueling station at Albert Street was towed due to safety concerns and its interference with traffic flow.

There have been several confrontational standoffs between convoy participants and anti-convoy (counter) protestors.

The RCMP is aware of a protestor appearing on stage in support of the convoy while wearing the dress uniform of the RCMP (red serge) and will be investigating.

An Ontario judge granted an injunction today to enforce noise and idling bylaws related to the ongoing anti-vaccine mandate protests in Ottawa. The City of Ottawa requested the injunction

Friday. The injunction does not have an end date and was designed to give the police and bylaw officers an additional tool to enforce city bylaws.

Open Source Reporting

Media reporting indicates that two former members of Joint Task Force 2 are under investigation for their alleged involvement in the convoy protests in Ottawa.

Media reporting indicates that the City of Ottawa has reached an agreement with protest leaders for vehicles to leave residential streets and confine their activities to the Parliament Hill area. Ottawa Mayor Jim Watson has reportedly offered to meet with protestors to discuss their concerns, provided that all trucks are removed from residential areas south of Wellington Street and from all other residential areas including the market and the site at Coventry. Protestors must also agree to not backfill residential areas that are currently occupied by protestors, or their vehicles, and agree to not relocate vehicles or demonstrators to other residential neighbourhoods in Ottawa. The mayor has requested that the protest perimeter be limited to Wellington Street between Elgin Street and the Sir John A. MacDonald Parkway. The spokeswoman for the Freedom Convoy has indicated she is working to gain buy-in from drivers.

The fundraising campaigns for the Freedom Convoy and Adopt a Trucker are no longer on the GiveSendGo platform. The funds raised to date were effectively frozen as a result of the court order as financial institutions are prohibited from dealing with the GiveSendGo funds. GiveSendGo has publicly indicated their intent not to comply with the order and deny the Ontario courts jurisdiction over their fund. Bitcoin wallet for the blockade contains over 1.2 M CAD.

Media reporting indicates that the TD Bank plans to hand over the \$1M in funds previously released by GoFundMe for the blockade to the Ontario courts, along with approximately \$400,000 in direct donations, for distribution or return to donors.

Toronto Demonstrations

Police Reporting

Out of an abundance of caution, Queen's Park Circle remains closed to vehicle traffic. All other road closures have been reopened.

TPS has no intelligence to indicate protests are planned in the downtown core this week.

Ports of Entry - Windsor

Police Reporting

Ambassador Bridge is fully open. Canada-bound and US-bound traffic flowing freely.

A small contingent of 5 protestors gathered at the corner of Tecumseh and Northway this afternoon. No issues were reported.

Enforcement action to remove protestors blockading the Ambassador Bridge yesterday has thus far resulted in a total of 44 arrests and 88 charges, including Mischief and Obstruct, and an outstanding warrant. Cement barriers are being placed on Huron Church to maintain cleared areas.

The City of Windsor declared a state of emergency on February 14, 2022 (today). The state of emergency was discussed at today's meeting of Windsor City Council, which also saw council pass a resolution calling on the provincial and federal governments to reimburse the city for all costs associated with responding to the protest.

Ports of Entry – Niagara / Peace Bridge

Police Reporting

The QEW has been opened at Gilmore Road. No issues were reported.

Ports of Entry – Sarnia

Police Reporting

All vehicles have been voluntarily driven off of Highway 402 and road crews will reopen the highway upon a safety inspection. Highway 402 Westbound between Nauvoo Road and Kerwood Road was closed due to looping convoy with approximately 25 vehicles including 10 tractors.

OPP reporting indicates that traffic is moving normally at the Blue Water Bridge.

MTO Enforcement has additional officers working and offered their services in addition to patrolling highways and monitoring convoys.

Ports of Entry – Cornwall

Police Reporting

No protestors were reported in the area and there were no significant issues to report.

Ports of Entry - Nipigon

Police Reporting

OPP reporting has identified a potential blockade at the Nipigon River Bridge scheduled for February 26, 2022.

Other Potential Activity

OPP reporting indicates that a group of people have travelled to possibly block the border at Pigeon River, and appear to be camping on site. Their intention is unclear.

Open Source Reporting

Social media information indicates that farmers from the Thunder Bay area intend to block bridges and border crossings with 1000 tractors. The message also claims that they are going to a border crossing with 5000 vehicles, including commercial motor vehicles. The border point is not named: it is possible that Pigeon River is the destination.

Local convoy actions are anticipated in other jurisdictions across the province, please see the updated event schedule for additional information.

Social media information has called for peaceful protests in other jurisdictions that have provided police personnel to Ottawa.

Media reporting indicates that commercial truck drivers in the US are planning to begin their own convoys.

ASSESSMENT

Protestors are likely to frame the federal government invocation of the Emergencies Act as a sign of government weakness, proof of government “tyranny”, an escalation to violence, and an acknowledgement that the blockades have been successful. Protestors at the ongoing blockade are likely to remain defiant, and solidarity protests are likely to continue elsewhere.

Police reporting for several days has indicated that the attitude toward police at the Ottawa blockade has become more adversarial and confrontational. The available reporting indicates a growing number of counter protests, including incidents where convoys are physically blocked by individuals or small groups. Such counter protests are likely to continue. These counter protests could increase the threat of conflict at protest sites, and raise the possibility of injury to individuals who place themselves in the way of vehicles.

The situation in Ontario remains volatile and represents a public safety threat and an officer safety threat. The potential for conflict or an act of violence is likely increasing as the Ottawa blockade continues. The potential for conflict has not decreased with the enforcement action in Windsor. The possibility of an act of mischief against strategic targets should not be discounted.

Protest organizers are attributing the lifting of restrictions in some provinces to their protests. This perceived success will likely result in a hardened resolve amongst the protestors and their supporters. Additionally, organizers have stated an intent to hold blockades in provinces that have not dropped COVID-19 related mandates; it is almost certain that this will occur.

At this juncture, there is no concrete, specific, or credible threat with regard to the Freedom Convoy protest and Operation BearHug 2.0 activity. However, the possibility that a lone actor or group of individuals could enact a physical threat with little or no warning cannot be excluded.

EVENT SCHEDULE

February 15, 2022 – February 18, 2022

Freedom Convoy 2022 – **Fort McMurray to Ottawa**

February 19, 2022

Cornwall

Possible planned protest to take place on February 19, 2022, time U/K

Niagara Peninsula Convoy 2022

Potential target of is the Peace Bridge/Queenston-Lewiston via slow roll/blockade.

Saturday February 26, 2022

Nipigon Bridge

Protest was scheduled for 13 February has been rescheduled for February 26, 2022

U/K Date

Thunder Bay

Canada Unity – Operation Bearhug Canada

Strategic Border crossing disruptions. Plans unconfirmed.

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